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SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 658  
By Davis L

A RESOLUTION to honor Minnie Pearl Rains Johnson on her distinguished teaching career.

WHEREAS, the Tennessee General Assembly takes great pleasure in specially recognizing and commending our most exemplary teachers; and

Whereas, Minnie Pearl Rains Johnson, a popular and highly regarded educator who taught in the Fentress County school system for 31 ½ productive years, is clearly one such noble individual; and

WHEREAS, "Ms. Pearl," as she is affectionately known, was born in Pickett County on December 3, 1912, the daughter of hard-working parents Marion Rains, a merchant, and Martha Adeline Crouch Rains; and

WHEREAS, she takes great pride in the fact she attended the wedding of her neighbor, Sergeant Alvin C. York and Ms. Grace. Later Miss Pearl's brother, Jim, married Sergeant York's sister, Lucy; and

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WHEREAS, "Ms. Pearl" attended Pall Mall Elementary School, the Alvin York Institute and Tennessee Polytechnic Institute. While in high school, she rode horses and played guard for the girl's basketball team; and

WHEREAS, after her first year in college, the Fentress County school system was in desperate need of teachers and she went home to teach; and

WHEREAS, after returning home, she began seeing her future husband, Fred Miles Johnson, a businessman and farmer, and this happy couple was married on January 12, 1935; and

WHEREAS, her early teaching assignments were at a one-room school, a two-room school, and a five-room consolidated school, respectively; and

WHEREAS, Ms. Pearl graduated from Tennessee Polytechnic Institute and completed her Bachelor of Science degree in Elementary Education by going to school at night and during the summers; and

WHEREAS, her many former students, as well as their parents, are deeply grateful for the positive difference she made during their formative first and second grade years. She was always there for her students when they needed her, whether before or after regular school hours; and

WHEREAS, Ms. Pearl was constantly complimented for her extraordinary professional diligence and dedication; the encouragement she provided and the strong interest she evidenced in her students was instrumental to their later success in life; and

WHEREAS, she was an active member of the Greers Chapel Methodist Church, where she generously contributed her time and expertise to the youth program; and

WHEREAS, always concerned for her friends in need, this model citizen followed the finest traditions of the "Volunteer State" with a constant smile; and

WHEREAS, after her retirement, Ms. Pearl was active in many service clubs and organizations; and

WHEREAS, she was instrumental in organizing and raising money for the Retired Teachers Association scholarship fund. Pearl quilted quilts and knitted afghans to be raffled off, with the proceeds being deposited in the fund; and

WHEREAS, Ms. Pearl also took an active leadership role in the Jamestown Garden Club, the Senior Citizens organization, the women's activities of the Farm Bureau, and the Fentress County Hospital Auxiliary; and

WHEREAS, Ms. Pearl's children are Fred Miles Johnson, Jr. of Jamestown, Margaret Johnson Wallace of Marietta, Georgia, and Julius Thomas Johnson of Columbia; her son, William Marion Johnson is deceased and an infant daughter died in childbirth. She also enjoys the love and companionship of her six grandchildren and one great-grandchild; and

WHEREAS, it is fitting that we pause in our deliberations to honor the exceptional teaching career and meritorious public service of Minnie Pearl Rains Johnson; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE ONE HUNDRED FIRST GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES CONCURRING, That we honor and commend Minnie Pearl Johnson and thank her for giving unselfishly to her students throughout her remarkable career.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.